

REMARKS

This communication is a full and timely response to the aforementioned non-final Office Action dated May 3, 2007. By this communication, claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 10 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the underlying subject matter and claims 3-5, 8, and 9 are amended. Claims 3-5, 8, and 9 remain pending.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Patent Office (PTO) for indicating that claims 3-5, 8, and 9 contain allowable subject matter. These claims are now in independent form.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 10 were objected to for alleged informalities. Applicants have cancelled these claims, thereby rendering this objection moot. Withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Watabe* (U.S. Patent No. 6,356,317) in view of *Oku* (U.S. Patent No. 5,907,372). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution these claims have been cancelled thereby rendering this rejection moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under the ground for non-statutory double patenting over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,470,058. This rejection is moot since claims 1 and 10 have been cancelled. Withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

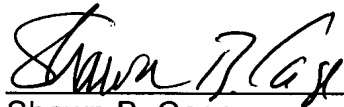
Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 3-5, 8, and 9 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants requests a favorable examination and consideration of the instant application. In the event any issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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